Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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This project was made possible through collaboration among the Armitt Library & Museum (Ambleside, UK), Redeemer University College (Ancaster, Canada) and the University of Cumbria (UK) and with the financial assistance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
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THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.*]

DEAR EDITOR.—I should like to recommend a book called *Ethics for Young People*, by Everett (published by Ginn & Co.), to the lady who was enquiring through your magazine for a suitable book of an unsectarian kind to read to children of any age. It probably is not to be had in London, but any bookseller could procure it in a fortnight's time. Can anyone suggest suitable French books for a girl of thirteen, who is mentally too old for the *Bibliothéque Rose* and yet too young for novels? Also in German.

M. E.

MISS HODGSON'S CLASSES IN SCOTLAND.

DEAR EDITOR.—As some of your readers will doubtless be interested in how the classes conducted by Miss Hodgson, at Darvel, Ayrshire, during August, have got on, I, as being chiefly responsible for winning her services for this period, think I owe some account and a letter of thanks. Last summer I visited the House of Education to see about a governess for my children, and could not help showing very special interest in the nature lore and handicrafts as taught by Miss Hodgson.

The month's course just completed has had phenomenal success; there has been a membership of over fifty; teachers have come from all parts of the country, and Miss Hodgson feels it a great reward that each will form a new nucleus in the spreading and development of the new gospel in educational matters. Our local industries of curtain and carpet manufacturing make a constant supply of designing indispensable, and it was soon recognised what a value and new interest it would give to such work to have some systematic training in the characteristic growths of the different orders of plants, and acquire the habit of better observation and ready reproduction which the course of brush-work and nature illustrating was so calculated to give; consequently this class, which was held purposely in the evening, was attended largely by local teachers and designers. The month's work has been a wonderful example of concentrated effort on part of both teachers and students. An exhibition of the work has been held, and to everyone it is marvellous and almost incredible that all these branches of handicrafts have been started and such beautiful work accomplished in one month. There are exquisite examples of hammered brass, embossed leather, wood-carving, clay modelling, bookbinding, cardboard sloyd, and studies in brush-work of plant gesture.

Many of the students have departed declaring that they have found ten fingers at Darvel, and such new unsuspected powers that they have acquired new life and faith in themselves.

It is very gratifying to Miss Hodgson that before she has left the village her efforts have taken something like abiding shape in the formation of a branch of the Home Arts and Industries Association. She considers there are pupils left in each of the subjects who have made such progress as to enable them to teach, so that the dispensing with specially hired teachers will enable the movement to become very popular. On the first night twenty-four members enrolled, and this will doubtless be largely increased forthwith. The special, and as far as we know, unique advantage of having nature lore and illustrating linked on to the production of the natural beauties in the various mediums of metal, iron, leather, etc., employed by the handicrafts is recognised in the name, "Darvel Nature Lore and Handicrafts Guild," and we hope by special supervision of all designs admitted to the guild, and by diligent care and high purpose, to make it such a guild as Miss Hodgson will look back with pride on having founded. Trusting this report will prove of interest.

I am, yours truly,

The Knowe, Darvel. GAVIN MORTON.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, *Sec.*, 28, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

To whom all Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 *copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.*

NEW BRANCHES.

The Executive Committee has been approached with a view to starting Branches in the following places:—

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MANCHESTER.
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COLCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Powell, Gt. Bentley Vicarage.
NOTTINGHAM.
BLACKHEATH.
CROYDON.—Names may be sent *pro tem.*, P. Rands, Esq., Brighty, Bensham Manor Road.
STREATHAM.
BECKENHAM.
CARLISLE.
OXFORD.
TRURO.
EXETER.